

NEWS from The Savannah River Site



Media Contact: Susie Grant
(803) 725-0190
susan.grant@srs.gov

For Immediate Release

POTENTIAL IMPACT OF SRS ON THE PUBLIC CONTINUES TO DECLINE, SAYS 2000 SRS ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING REPORT

AIKEN, S.C., (Sept. 27, 2001) — The potential impact of the Savannah River Site (SRS) on the offsite public continues to decline, according to the 2000 SRS Environmental Report.

The largest radiation dose that any single offsite individual could have received from SRS operations in 2000 is estimated to be 0.18 millirem (a millirem is a standard unit of measure for radiation exposure). By comparison, the average dose from natural sources to people in the U.S. is about 300 millirem. This dose is also about 36 percent less than the 1999 dose rate of 0.28 millirem.

During 2000, the total amount of tritium released to the Savannah River from the site was about 5 percent less than the amount released during 1999.

Compliance with environmental regulations and with U.S. Department of Energy orders related to environmental protection provides assurance that onsite processes do not impact the environment adversely.

SRS did not receive any notices of violation under the Clean Air Act, which had a compliance rate for the year of 100 percent; the Safe Drinking Water Act or the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

The site also had a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System compliance rate of 99.7 percent. This system protects streams, reservoirs and other wetlands by limiting all nonradiological releases. Discharge limits are set for each facility to ensure that SRS operations do not negatively impact aquatic life or degrade water quality.

SRS's Environmental Reports have been produced for more than 45 years. Copies of this year's report are being distributed to government officials, universities, public libraries, environmental and civic groups, news media and interested individuals.

If you would like to receive a copy of the report, call or write to:

Bob Lorenz, Manager
Environmental Sampling and Reporting
Building 735-11A
Westinghouse Savannah River Company
Aiken, SC 29808
Telephone: (803) 725-3556
E-mail: robert.lorenz@srs.gov

WSRC-01-07